

SELF-RELIANCE AND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF AN
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
ECONOMY

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SELF-RELIANCE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMY

On June 12 Rodong Shinmoon carried an article entitled "Self-reliance and the Construction of an Independent National Economy", which read in full as follows:

Our Party has won one great victory after another in defending the freedom and independence of the country and in carrying out the socialist revolution and socialist construction.

Until a short while ago the Korean people had been in a backward state, and they went through a harsh war, too. But they have won a great victory in an extremely brief span of time, surmounting all difficulties. This is unthinkable apart from the principle of self-reliance and the line of building an independent economy consistently upheld by our Party.

Having successfully settled the complicated tasks of the socialist revolution, our Party and our people have already entered the stage of the all-round construction of socialism.

We must turn our country into a developed socialist industrial state by fulfilling the tasks of the all-round technical revolution and cultural revolution and lay a firm material foundation for the reunification of the country and for an ever-lasting prosperity of our posterity.

All these tasks can successfully be carried out only

by continuously adhering to and ever more vigorously carrying through the principle of self-reliance and the line of building an independent economy.

Self-reliance—this is a noble revolutionary feature and the thorough-going revolutionary spirit of the Communists.

It is the revolutionary stand of the proletariat and the Communists to be loyal to their revolutionary duty to the end and to build a new society with their own strength after overthrowing the old society.

The proletariat of each country, while strengthening their solidarity with the international proletariat, must first of all fulfil the revolutionary task of their country with their own strength.

The international solidarity and mutual support and aid of the proletariat of all lands in the struggle against the oppression and exploitation by capital and for up-building a new society constitute an important guarantee for the victory of the revolution. And the growth of the world revolutionary forces provides favourable conditions for the revolutionary struggle in individual countries.

It is a sacred internationalist duty of the Communists and the Marxist-Leninist Parties to do everything to help, support, and encourage each other in the struggle for revolution and construction. And to be victorious in the revolution in a country it must firmly rely on such international solidarity.

However, masters of the revolution in a country are none other than the proletariat and the popular masses of that country and their guiding force, the Marxist-Leninist Party. The decisive factor for the victory of revolution, too, is the internal force of that country.

Revolution cannot be exported from one country to another, and accordingly no outside people can perform a revolution for one country.

The speed of the revolution, its profundity, and its triumph in one country—all these depend largely on the maturity and preparedness of the revolutionary situation and forces of that country.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance stems precisely from such fundamental truths of Marxism-Leninism.

Therefore, these law-governed features in the development of revolution demand that the Communists and the Marxist-Leninist Party of each country possess the spirit of fighting the enemy persistently to the last under all circumstances by mustering the internal forces to the maximum, making everything that they need for the victory of revolution with their own strength, and constantly moving forward, not being content with the successes already scored. In a word, it is required of them the highest sense of responsibility and steadfastness toward the revolution.

It is not the proper attitude if a revolutionary counts only on outside support with folded arms. Revolution would be out of the question for him if he takes such an attitude.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance—this is one of the unbending spirit of fighting it out till victory is won in any adversity, of making all things one needs by one's own strength; it is the idea of continuous innovation and uninterrupted advance, knowing no indolence, complacency or vacillation under any circumstances.

Only when the proletariat and Communists uphold such ideas and such principle, can they uphold the revolutionary constancy, keep up their struggle under any complicated circumstances, and win final victory in the revolution, pulling through twists and turns in the course of the revolution.

Comrade Kim Il Sung said as follows:

"Being Communists who struggle for revolution, we must always have the spirit of self-reliance. Otherwise, one would not believe in one's own strength or exert serious efforts to tap the internal resources of one's own country. Then, the cause of the revolution cannot be achieved."

Self-reliance is strictly based on the principles of proletarian internationalism.

The revolutionary movement of the proletariat is,

primarily, a struggle for breaking asunder the chain of capital allied on a world scale. Accordingly, the proletarian revolution and the communist movement are always internationalist in essence.

The proletariat and Communists of various countries discharge their duties, national and international, by successfully carrying out the revolution, first of all, in their own country with the support and encouragement of the world revolutionary movement. When the Communists and their Party accelerate the revolution to the maximum in their own countries with their own strength, it will serve a serious blow to the international capital and constitute an active support to the revolution in other countries.

The Communists should contribute to the development of the world revolutionary movement by successfully pushing ahead with the revolution first of all in their own countries and should actively support and assist the revolutions of other countries by doing everything in their power.

Lenin said in this connection:

"There is one, and only one, kind of internationalism in deed: working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in one's own country, and supporting (by propaganda, sympathy and material aid) such a struggle, such, and only such, a line in every country without exception."

Our Party has consistently and strictly adhered to the revolutionary principle of self-reliance in the arduous struggle against the imperialists, in the unremitting struggle against the reactionaries at home and in the struggle for socialist revolution and socialist construction.

The anti-Japanese partisans headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung waged a heroic anti-Japanese struggle for fifteen years with firm confidence in victory under extremely difficult conditions: they had no rear; they armed themselves with weapons captured from the enemy; they solved the question of ammunition, provisions and clothes for themselves.

Every step of the struggle and victory of the Korean Communists in the 1930's is, indeed, a living example of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

After liberation, our Party, which has carried forward this revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese partisans, has been able to win a tremendous victory in the socialist revolution and socialist construction by decisively rejecting the tendencies of national nihilism and flunkeyism of relying only upon others, of not trusting our own strength, and by putting emphasis on mobilising our own force to the maximum in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance while receiving support and encouragement from the fraternal countries.

The line of our Party of reinforcing the political, economic and military might of the country in every way by doing everything in our power is not only the most correct road of promoting the Korean revolution but also a positive step for defending peace in Asia and fortifying the eastern forefront of the socialist camp.

This shows that our Party is not only faithful to the national duty it has assumed but also is discharging in a responsible manner the internationalist duty that it has assumed before the world communist movement.

Self-reliance is indeed a steadfast revolutionary stand, a stand which fully accords with the principles of proletarian internationalism.

To embody the revolutionary principle of self-reliance in socialist construction is to build above all a firm independent economy.

The construction of an independent national economy means to lay a solid economic foundation capable of managing the economy of the country with its own strength under the banner of self-reliance.

"To build an independent national economy means to develop economy in a diversified way, equip it with up-to-date technique and create our own firm raw material bases, thus forming a comprehensive economic system in which all branches are interlinked organically with each other, with a view to producing and supplying basically

at home heavy and light industrial and agricultural products needed for the prosperity of the country and enhancement of the people's living." (Kim Il Sung)

Building an independent national economy is of very great importance in guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of the country and successfully building socialism, in consolidating the might of the entire socialist camp.

No country is ensured firm political independence, and complete equality and sovereignty in international relations unless it is equipped with an independent national economy.

Without economic independence, no country can enjoy political independence. Nor can it run its economy as a master.

To strangle the political sovereignty of other countries and subjugate them politically, the imperialists are obstructing the economies of these countries from making the independent development and reducing them to their economic appendage. Such is the relations among states in the capitalist world: countries with advanced industry subjugate the backward agrarian countries economically and exploit and plunder them, and then dominate them politically.

But there cannot be, nor should there be, such practice among the socialist countries. Mutual relations among the socialist countries are based on the principles of complete equality, respect for independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and on the principle of fraternal mutual assistance.

All countries must be independent economically if the principles of complete equality and sovereignty are to be put into practice in the mutual relations among countries.

Those who disapprove on the one hand of the construction of an independent national economy while talking on the other about sovereignty, equality and non-interference in others' internal affairs, are in fact denying the sovereignty and equality of countries.

It is also necessary for successfully building socialism to build an independent national economy.

For building socialism, heavy industry with machine-building industry as its backbone should be constructed and the socialist industrialisation must be realized. And, on this basis, both light industry and agriculture should be developed and all the branches of the national economy be equipped with modern technique. Particularly, for the former colonies and semi-colonies and backward agrarian countries to build modern industry and industrialise the country is the key to speedily liquidating the historical backwardness and joining the ranks of the advanced countries.

For the successful fulfilment of this task, the economy of each country should be developed into an independent economic unit which can be developed in a many-sided way and can be run by its own strength: with its own technique, the natural resources of the country and raw materials and equipment produced in the country and by its own national cadres.

All the resources of the country can be mobilised and utilised to the maximum and the productive forces can be developed rapidly, ensuring a correct balance, only when the national economy marches firmly on its own feet as an independent economic unit forming a combined economic system. And only then can a country swiftly develop its science, technology and culture, steadily raise the cultural and technical level of the working people and rear them as men developed in an allround way, and go over to socialism and communism more rapidly.

Where will it lead to if a country develops only a few limited domains of production, arguing about the "traditional production" or "natural and economic advantage" or "profitableness"?

It will make a country's national economy lopsided, and the country cannot run its national economy without relying on other's economy. Especially those countries where industry could not develop in the past will remain backward ones without modern industry if they develop

only those industrial domains of "traditional production".

Under such conditions each country cannot promote economic construction on its own in conformity with its own needs; nor can it properly regulate the balance of the national economy; nor can it build socialism successfully.

Natural and economic conditions and tradition in production are not unchangeable, but they can be changed in pace with the development of science, technology and production.

The Communists should further conquer nature, make favourable what is unfavourable economically and, for the victory of socialism and communism, should produce what they do not have and forge ahead continuously, creating the new. Only then can we mobilise and turn to account all the wealth we have and redouble our strength.

As for profitableness, the national economy as a whole should be taken into account, together with the profits of each enterprise, and the prospect of the development of the national economy should be taken into consideration, together with the immediate profits. Should one approach the problem of profitableness shortsightedly, no new industrial branch will be founded. It is the merchant's way of calculation, and is harmful to socialist construction to place the profits of each enterprise above the profits of the national economy as a whole and place the immediate profits above the future profits of the national economy.

Only by constructing an independent national economy can each country accelerate socialist construction and, furthermore, increase the might of the entire socialist camp.

The economies of all the socialist countries are developing in close link and cooperation with each other as an independent economic unit within the world socialist economic system. The world socialist economic system will grow in might and the economic links be further consolidated and developed when each unit forming it is strong.

If the national economy of each socialist country fails to develop in a comprehensive way, lacks solid independence, and finds itself incapable of playing an independent role, it will weaken all links of the entire socialist camp and will result in weakening the world socialist economic system as an integral whole.

What is important is that the world socialist economic system as a whole must be made to move along smoothly and fully display its strength, with the economy of all the socialist countries advancing soundly and fully performing their independent roles.

And only when there is an independent national economy can economic cooperation be conducted successfully on the principles of proletarian internationalism and equality and mutual benefit.

The economic independence of each country should be further consolidated for deepening and developing still more the relations of economic assistance and comradely cooperation among the fraternal countries on the principles of proletarian internationalism. As a matter of fact, with a backward and lopsided economy, a country, no matter how ardently it may desire, cannot effectively take part in economic cooperation in practice.

Accordingly, the construction of an independent national economy does not only not run counter to the interests of international cooperation but constitutes a guarantee for developing it more satisfactorily.

To develop an independent, diversified economy does not mean to deny the international economic intercourse and cooperation and produce everything a country needs by itself.

How can anyone, if he has a particle of common sense, call the construction of an independent national economy "closed economy" (autarky), accuse it to be a road of "isolation" from the socialist system, and even brand it as "nationalism"?

There is no such thing, nor can there be, as "closed economy" or "isolated economy" in this world of today.

Each country should produce by itself basic things and what is much in demand and obtain what it does not need much or falls short of through the international co-operation with the fraternal countries and, at the same time, it should supply the fraternal countries, on the principle of mutual accommodation, with raw materials and goods which they do not have or need urgently.

All the countries of the socialist camp should fight on, always helping each other and cooperating with each other in difficult work in the course of building socialism and communism. The economic cooperation among the fraternal countries should at all times be directed to helping the given country accelerate its socialist industrialisation and firmly lay the material and technical foundation of socialism; it should be conducted in such a way as to help all countries construct a firm independent national economy through mutual accommodation at the given stage of the development of the productive forces.

In this way the fraternal countries should rapidly develop economy and all should fall in step so as to vigorously press forward for the victory of the common cause of socialism.

Only when all the socialist countries firmly build up an independent national economy and, on this basis, strengthen mutual cooperation, can the economy of each country be consolidated all the more firmly; the might of the world socialist camp be reinforced more; and the national interests be integrated with international interests in their socialist construction. Only then, can the superiority of the socialist system and world socialist economic system be given full play

In the struggle between socialism and capitalism, all people are attentively watching how political sovereignty is ensured, how economy is developing and how the people's living is improving in socialist countries.

In particular, it stands out as a most important task for the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries and the newborn independent countries to construct an independent national economy in order to shake off the

political domination of and economic bondage to imperialism, consolidate the independence they have won and ensure their complete independent development. Today the imperialists are pursuing a new colonialist policy to subjugate these countries economically and establish their political domination over them under the cloak of "aid". Under such a situation, the peoples of these countries are following closely the development the countries which were in almost the same position as theirs not long ago are making on the road of socialism.

By establishing an independent national economy under the close economic cooperation among countries of the socialist camp and thus speedily developing the politics, economy and culture of the country, we should show with practical example how the nations who took the road of socialism are enjoying genuine sovereignty and equality and building up their happy life. This will not only be a display of the achievement in the economic construction in each country but an eloquent demonstration of the superiority of the socialist system.

The construction of independent national economy in socialist countries will become an impressive force winning over to the side of socialism hundreds of millions of people fighting against imperialist oppression and subjugation.

It was a particularly important and urgent question in our country to build an independent economy under the banner of self-reliance.

Our people took over a backward and crippled economy from the old society and were left behind the technical civilisation.

As a result of the division of the fatherland due to the occupation of South Korea by U.S. imperialism following liberation, the economic onesidedness had become more pronounced and our national economy was severely devastated in the three-year war.

A half of our land has been reduced to a colony of U.S. imperialism and we have to wage a protracted and

arduous struggle as we stand face to face with the U.S. imperialists.

Under such circumstances we had to liquidate in the shortest span of time the onesidedness and backwardness of economy handed down from the old society, stabilise and improve the people's living as early as possible and lay a firm economic foundation of our own for building a rich, strong, unified and independent state.

The construction of an independent national economy in our country was a serious question on which the issue of the Korean revolution hung, and it was a vital issue, that is, without such economy neither independence nor the building of the state nor subsistence was possible.

It was a very difficult problem to build an independent economy under the conditions of historically backward economy and culture, shortage of national cadres and lack of experiences in economic construction.

However, we have invariably upheld this line and resolutely carried it out in order not to let the bitter past come back again, the time when we were downtrodden, humiliated and maltreated by foreign aggressors because we were backward and powerless, in order to become an independent, powerful and civilized nation who can proudly advance shoulder to shoulder with all other nations of the world, and in order to march forward to socialism and communism hand in hand with the peoples of the brother countries.

Our people have mustered their own strength and all the home resources to the maximum in the spirit of finding what they do not have and producing what they do not have enough of under the banner of self-reliance, while making a rational use of the aid from the fraternal countries, and thereby laid the solid foundation of an independent economy in a very short space of time.

Life demonstrates the great vitality of the line of building an independent national economy which our Party has set forth and has held and is upholding persistently still today.

The great might of the line of building an independent national economy finds its vivid expression in the many-sided development of economy, in the high rate of national economic development.

The industry of our country grew at the annual rate of 33.6 per cent on an average in the postwar period (1953-1962).

In the year 1962, our industry turned out much more products than in the first ten years following liberation (1946-1955).

A rapid development has been registered notably in the domain of heavy industry including the machine-building industry, the foundation for building an independent economy. Between 1953 and 1962, our machine-building and metal-processing industries grew 22 times and their output value in 1962 showed an increase of 145 times compared with 1946, the year after liberation.

Under the support of heavy industry a great change has also taken place in the rural economy of our country. In 1962, the grain output was nearly double that of the pre-liberation figure and we have already become self-sufficient in food.

Thanks to the implementation of our Party's line of building an independent economy, the colonial one-sidedness of our national economy has been done away with once and for all and the economic structure of the country has undergone a fundamental change.

The share of industry in the total industrial and agricultural output value reached 71 per cent in 1960, whereas it was 28 per cent in 1946. The proportion of the industrial fields producing the means of production including the machine-building industry which was most backward in the past has rapidly increased and the interrelations of industrial branches have acquired a rational balance.

We are now able to walk on our own feet, make necessary machines and equipment on our own and erect by ourselves large-scale power plants, chemical factories,

metallurgical works and other modern factories and enterprises.

With the creation of our own solid light industrial bases, we are now able to fill all the stores of the country with our own products and satisfy on our own the demands of the people for daily necessities.

We have already solved in the main the question of food, clothing and housing for the people and laid a firm foundation for making the people's living more bountiful in the future.

The successful building of the independent national economy has opened a favourable phase in our struggle for the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

The solid foundation of an independent national economy laid in the northern part of Korea is having enormous revolutionizing effect upon the South Korean people. The people of the South see in the reality of the North that only political sovereignty and economic independence can ensure the prosperity of the nation and the well-being of the people and that this is the only way for building a genuine independent state.

Recently in South Korea, the people's voice is getting louder, the voice that rejects foreign interference and reliance upon outside power and calls for achieving the reunification of the country, political sovereignty and economic independence relying on the nation's own strength.

By building an independent national economy, we are now able to accommodate the fraternal countries economically on a mutual basis and cooperate with them more effectively on the principles of complete equality and mutual benefit.

Under the banner of self-reliance, our people have increased the political and economic might of the country and fortified our revolutionary base like an impregnable fortress, thus reliably defending the eastern outpost of the socialist camp, standing face to face with the U.S. imperialists.

In the future, too, under the banner of self-reliance, we will continue to build up more firmly the independent national economy of the country by mobilising to the maximum our own strength and inner resources, and thus will successfully push ahead with socialist construction of the country, steadily develop cooperation with the peoples of the fraternal countries on the principles of proletarian internationalism and contribute more actively to the strengthening of the might of the world socialist system and to the cause for the victory of socialism and communism.